

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

MUSSIE E. WELDEJOHANNES,

Plaintiff,

CASE NO. 3:23-cv-05526-JCC-BAT

V.

PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

STATE OF WASHINGTON, et al.,

Defendant.

Defendants have filed an Answer to plaintiff's *pro se* Complaint. The Court therefore

ORDERS:

DISCOVERY

Discovery is the process in which one party asks another party to provide relevant information about the case. A party should not file discovery requests or discovery materials with the court unless the party is moving to compel, seeking a protective order, or is otherwise supporting a motion. A party seeking discovery must serve a discovery request on the other party. There are several ways to ask for discovery including: depositions in which one party asks another person questions about the lawsuit; interrogatories in which written questions are served on another party; and requests for production in which a written request to provide documents

1 relevant to the lawsuit is served on another party. *See* Rules 30, 33 and 34 of the Federal Rules
2 of Civil Procedure.

3 All discovery in this case must be completed by **January 22, 2024**. This includes
4 serving responses to interrogatory questions and requests for production, and the completion of
5 all depositions. Responses to interrogatory questions and requests for production must be served
6 not later than **30 days** after service of the discovery requests. The serving party, therefore, must
7 serve his/her discovery requests by **December 21, 2023** so that the responding party can answer
8 by the discovery cut-off. *See* Rules 33(b) and 34(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

9 **DISCOVERY DISPUTES**

10 From time-to-time disputes over whether discovery has been properly provided arise. If a
11 discovery dispute arises, a party must fulfill the Court's meet and confer requirements **before**
12 filing a motion to compel discovery. *See* Local Rule 37. The local rule requires the party seeking
13 discovery to make a good faith effort to confer with the opposing party either through a face-to-
14 face meeting or a telephone conference. Any motion to compel discovery must include a written
15 certification that the moving party has in good faith effort either met and conferred or attempted
16 to meet and confer. A motion to compel that lacks such a certification will be summarily denied.

17 **MOTIONS**

18 Plaintiff is detained in state prison and must therefore utilize the E-filing procedure as to
19 all motions and other pleadings that he wishes to file. A motion is a formal request that asks the
20 Court to take certain action. All argument in support of the motion must be set forth in the
21 motion itself and not in a separate document. *See* Local Rule CR 7(b)(1). Each motion, together
22 with a proposed order, **must** be served on the opposing party so that the opposing party has an
23

1 opportunity to respond. In addition, **each motion must state in its caption, right below the**
 2 **motion's title, a noting date. The noting date is the date the Court will review your motion.**

- 3 • Note the following motions for **the day they are filed**: (1) stipulated
 4 or agreed motions; (2) motions to file over-length motions or briefs;
 5 (3) motions for reconsideration; (4) joint submissions pursuant to the
 optional procedure established in CR 37(a)(1)(B); (5) motions for
 default and default judgment; and (6) ex parte motions.
- 6 • Note all other non-dispositive motions for the **third Friday** after filing
 7 and service of the motion.
- 8 • Note all dispositive motions (dismissal and summary judgment) and
 9 motions for preliminary injunction for the **fourth Friday** after filing
 and service of the motion. *See* Local Rule CR 7(d) for complete rules
 on noting dates.

10 Any dispositive motion shall be filed and served on or before **February 22, 2024**. If a
 11 motion for summary judgment is filed, it is important for the opposing party to note the
 12 following:

13 A motion for summary judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal
 14 Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case.

15 Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for
 16 summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be
 17 granted when there is no genuine issue of material fact – that is, if
 18 there is no real dispute about any fact that would affect the result
 19 of your case, the party who asked for summary judgment is entitled
 20 to judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case. When a
 21 party you are suing makes a motion for summary judgment that is
 22 properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony), you
 23 cannot simply rely on what your complaint says. Instead, **you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the defendant's declarations and documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, summary judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you. If summary judgment is granted, your case will be dismissed and there will be no trial.**

Rand v. Rowland, 154 F.3d 952, 962-63 (9th Cir. 1998) (emphasis added).

Defendants MUST serve *Rand* and *Wyatt* notices concurrently with motions to dismiss and motions for summary judgment so that *pro se* prisoner plaintiffs will have fair, timely and adequate notice of what is required of them in order to oppose those motions. *Woods v. Carey*, 684 F.3d 934, 942 (9th Cir. 2012). The Ninth Circuit’s model language for such notices is noted above. Defendants who do not file and serve, in a separate document, the required *Rand* and *Wyatt* notices may face (a) immediate striking of their motions with leave to refile and (b) possible monetary sanctions.

JOINT PRETRIAL STATEMENT

A Joint Pretrial Statement deadline will be established at a later date, pending the outcome of any motions for dismissal or summary judgment.

PROOF OF SERVICE AND SANCTIONS

All motions, pretrial statements, and other filings must be accompanied by proof that such documents were served upon the opposing party's lawyer or upon any party acting pro se. The proof must show the day and manner of service and may be by written acknowledgment of service, by certificate of a member of the bar of this court, by affidavit of the person who served the papers, or by any other proof satisfactory to the court.

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Order can result in dismissal of the case or other appropriate sanctions. The Clerk of Court is directed to send a copy of this Order to plaintiff and to counsel for defendant.

DATED this 17th day of October, 2023.


BRIAN A. TSUCHIDA
United States Magistrate Judge